

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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TAGS: UNCTAD ETRD EGEN

SUBJ: UNCTAD: CONCLUSION OF SECOND MEETING 8TH COMMITTEE ON
COMMODITIES

REF: GENEVA 5841

1. ON 3RD AND 4TH DAYS OF MEETING COMMITTEE ASSUMED THE
FORM OF WORKING GROUP TO POSE QUESTIONS AND GIVE COMMENTS OF
TECHNICAL NATURE ON DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED BY SECRETARIAT.
DOCUMENTS WERE CONSIDERED UNDER FOUR HEADINGS: A) MEASURES
FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY ARRANGEMENTS (DOCS. 185 AND 188);
B) COMMON FUND (DOC. 184); C) MULTILATERAL COMMITMENTS (DOC.
186); D. IMPACT ON IMPORTS (DOC. 189).

2. DISCUSSION WAS LARGELY TAKEN UP BY GROUP B COMMENTS AND
QUESTIONS RAISED WENT TO THE ADEQUACY OF SECRETARIAT'S
STUDIES, AND IN NEARLY ALL CASES DELEGATIONS NOTED THAT THEIR
REMARKS WERE TO BE CONSIDERED PRELIMINARY IN NATURE. SINCE
VERY LATE DISTRIBUTION OF DOCUMENTS TO GOVERNMENTS, MOST
DELEGATIONS INDICATED FULL-DRESS STUDY HAD BEEN
IMPOSSIBLE. G-77 COMMENTS HARDLY ADDRESSED TECHNICAL POINTS
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AT ALL AND WERE CONFINED TO PRAISE OF SECRETARIAT'S

WORK AND TO NECESSITY FOR PROMPT ACTION. SECRETARIAT STAFF ATTEMPTED TO SUMMARIZE LARGE NUMBER OF QUESTIONS THROWN AT THEM AND RESPONCED TO CERTAIN QUESTIONS OR GROUPS OF QUESTIONS FROM TIME TO TIME AND AT END OF EACH OF FOUR SECTION. DISCUSSION WAS RELAXED AND INFORMATIVE.

3. U.S. QUESTIONS:COMMENTS INCLUDED: DOUBTS ABOUT NEED FOR COMMON FUND AND WHETHER IT WOULD RESULT IN FINANCIAL ECONOMIES AS CLAIMED BY SECRETARIAT; QUESTIONS ABOUT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PROPOSED COMMON FUND AND FINANCING OF INDIVIDUAL BUFFER STOCK ARRANGEMENTS; QUESTIONS ABOUT PROPOSED OPERATION OF FUND DIRECTLY IN COMMODITY MARKETS PRIOR TO ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMODITY ARRANGEMENTS, QUESTIONS ABOUT MANNER AND EFFECT OF ESTABLISHING COMMODITY PRICE RANGES; QUESTIONS ABOUT PROPOSED EXPORT LEVY; EXPRESSION OF DOUBTS ABOUT ROLE OF SUGGESTED MULTILATERAL COMMITMENTS AND STATEMENT THAT U.S. WOULD NOT BE PREPARED UNDERTAKE ANY OBLIGATIONS TO PURCHASE OR GUARANTEE PURCHASE OF FIXED QUANTITY OF ANY COMMODITY.

4. THE MANY QUESTIONS RAISED BY DELEGATIONS WERE LISTED BY SECRETARIAT AND WILL BE INCLUDED AS PART OF THE REVISED FINAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE. SECRETARIAT ANSWERED MANY OF QUESTIONS. CONCERNING OTHERS, IT RECOGNIZED FURTHER TECHNICAL WORK WAS NEEDED AND PROMISED ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTATION FOR DECEMBER MEETING. CONCERNING SOME OTHER QUESTIONS, IT CLAIMED THAT TECHNICAL ANALYSIS HAD BEEN CARRIED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE AND THAT WHAT NEEDED NEXT WAS POLITICAL GUIDANCE FROM GOVERNMENTS. (FOR EXAMPLE, ON SUCH SUBJECTS AS COMMODITIES THAT MIGHT BE INCLUDED, POSSIBLE AMOUNTS OF FINANCING AVAILABLE.)

5. DURING MORNIG OF FINAL DAY, CONTACT COMMITTEE WAS SET UP TO WORK OUT AGREED SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE. REPRESENTATIVES FOR GROUP B INCLUDED U.S., EC, AUSTRALIA, AND SWITZERLAND, HEADED BY GROUP B SPOKESMAN, JACQUES CUTTAT.

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6. GROUP B FIRST ATTEMPTED TO HAVE SUMMARY OF ACTION SIMPLY NOTE THE HELPFUL AND EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE IN COURSE OF MEETING AND TO INSTRUCT SECRETARIAT TO CONTINUE WORK ON ITS STUDIES IN LIGHT OF THE DISCUSSIONS AND IN FURTHERANCE OF THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION OF AN OVERALL INTEGRATED PROGRAMME FOR COMMODITIES AS APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON

COMMODITIES AT THE FIRST PART (FEBRUARY) OF ITS EIGHTH SESSION IN PARA 8 OF ITS RESOLUTION 15 (VIII), AND SUBSEQUENTLY ENDORSED BY THE TDB AT ITS SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION.

7. THE SECRETARIAT, ON BEHALF OF G-77 COUNTRIES, EXPRESSED VIEW THAT ADDITIONAL AND MORE DETAILED DIRECTION TO SECRETARIAT WAS REQUIRED, IF SECRETARIAT STUDIES ON INTEGRATED PROGRAM WERE TO BE READY FOR THIRD (DECEMBER) AND FINAL MEETING OF EIGHTH SESSION OF COMMITTEE.

8. G-77 THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT SECRETARIAT INVITE REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS TO CONVENE IN INFORMAL MEETINGS WITH SECRETARIAT TO PROVIDE VIEWS AND GUIDANCE OF GOVERNMENTS FOR THE FURTHER ELABORATION OF THE INTEGRATED PROGRAM.

9. IN GROUP B MEETING U.S. EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE USG VIEWS THROUGH GENEVA MISSION IN INFORMAL MEETINGS, BUT THAT IT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR STUDIES REMAINED CLEARLY IN HANDS OF SECRETARIAT AND WITH EXPRESS STATEMENT THAT ACCEPTANCE OF IDEA OF INFORMAL MEETING IN NO WAY INDICATED ACCEPTANCE OF FEASIBILITY OF INTEGRATED PROGRAM OR OF ITS SEVERAL PARTS. U.S. VIEW SUPPORTED CHIEFLY BY GERMANY AND JAPAN. REST OF EC PLUS AUSTRALIA AND CANADA TOOK VIEW THAT G-77 PROPOSAL WAS REASONABLE AND SHOULD BE ACCEPTED WITH MINIMAL CHANGE.

10. FINAL WORDING WORKED OUT IN CONTACT GROUP (FULL TEXT IN PARA 12 BELOW) DOES NOT COMMIT GOVERNMENTS TO ACCEPTANCE OF FEASIBILITY OF PROGRAM BUT
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EXPRESSED AGREEMENT OF GOVERNMENTS THAT SECRETARY-GENERAL MAY CONVENE INFORMAL MEETINGS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS AND, WHERE APPROPRIATE, TO UNDERTAKE DIRECT CONSULTATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS, COMMODITY BODIES AND OTHER INTERESTED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN VIEWS AND ASSISTANCE IN THE FURTHER ELABORATION AND PRECISION (SIC) OF THE INTEGRATED PROGRAM AND ITS VARIOUS PARTS PRIOR TO THE DEFINITIVE FORMULATION OF THE SECRETARIAT PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE IN DECEMBER.

11. COMMITTEE IN FINAL PLENARY MEETING ON FRIDAY APPROVED ADOPTION OF ITS REPORT. CONTENTS OF REPORT COVERED PLENARY DEBATE HELD DURING FIRST TWO DAYS OF COMMITTEE SESSION. COMMITTEE ALSO APPROVED SHORT

STATEMENT PREPARED ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SECRETARIAT SUMMARIZING ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE THIRD AND FOURTH DAYS OF SESSION. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE STATEMENT WOULD BE SUPPLEMENTED BY A LISTING OF THE POINTS MADE AND QUESTIONS RAISED BY DELEGATIONS DURING THE WORKING GROUP MEETINGS, THE LISTING TO BE APPENDED TO THE FINAL REPORT.

12. THE COMMITTEE FINALLY ALSO ADOPTED A SUBSTANTIVE STATEMENT OF "ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE" TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE FINAL REPORT AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN QUOTE:
"THE COMMITTEE AGREED THAT THE SECOND PART OF ITS 8TH SESSION HAD PROVIDED THE OCCASION FOR A USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE PROGRESS BEING MADE IN RESPONSE TO ITS RESOLUTION 15 (VIII). IT CONSIDERED THAT THE STAGE HAD BEEN REACHED WHEN FURTHER WORK IN THE ELABORATION OF AN INTEGRATED PROGRAMME FOR COMMODITIES AND THE INTERRELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAMME WOULD BE FACILITATED BY PERIODIC AND INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS AND THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNCTAD AS THE WORK PROCEEDED. THE COMMITTEE THEREFORE INVITED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO CONVENE INFORMAL MEETINGS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS AND, WHERE APPROPRIATE, TO UNDERTAKE DIRECT CONSULTATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS, COMMODITY BODIES AND OTHER INTERESTED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND REGIONAL
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ORGANIZATIONS DURING THE COURSE OF THE FURTHER WORK IN PREPARATION FOR THE THIRD PART OF THE 8TH SESSION.
"THE PURPOSE OF THESE CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE TO ENABLE THE SECRETARIAT TO OBTAIN VIEWS AND ASSISTANCE IN THE FURTHER ELABORATION AND PRECISION OF THE INTEGRATED PROGRAMME AS A WHOLE AND ITS VARIOUS ELEMENTS, IN PARTICULAR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PROPOSALS ON SUCH MATTERS AS MEASURES SUITABLE FOR INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES, THE SUITABILITY OF INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES FOR STOCKING, THE COMMON FUND, MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL COMMITMENTS, COMPENSATORY FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS, PROCESSING, AND THE IMPACT OF THE PROGRAMME ON IMPORTS ESPECIALLY OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE CONSULTATIONS WOULD ALSO HELP TO KEEP GOVERNMENTS MORE FULLY INFORMED OF THE LINES ON WHICH WORK WAS PROCEEDING PRIOR TO THE DEFINITIVE FORMULATION OF SECRETARIAT PROPOSALS FOR THE COMMITTEE AND WOULD THUS FACILITATE PROGRESS AND THE REACHING OF CONCLUSIONS IN COMPLIANCE WITH COMMITTEE'S RESOLUTION 15 (VIII) AT THE THIRD PART OF ITS 8TH SESSION IN DECEMBER 1975." END QUOTE. DALE

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